



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

June 18, 2014

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor
State of New Jersey
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

On May 27, 2014, the State Executive Director of the New Jersey Farm Service Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for three New Jersey counties due to losses caused by excessive rain, flooding, high winds, and hail that occurred on May 22, 2014. Those counties are:

Cumberland

Gloucester

Salem

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses in all three counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all three New Jersey counties named above as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Atlantic

Camden

Cape May

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those States, counties, and numbers are:

Contiguous counties in Adjacent States:

Delaware (1)
New Castle

Pennsylvania (2)
Delaware Philadelphia

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A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tom J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Vilsack" clearly legible.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary